

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: SATURDAY EVENING,
AUGUST 30

FOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS (FUNSETH)

NO. 42

WIRES:

(A) UPI (GROWALD) FROM JERUSALEM: "ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON, STANDING BESIDE KISSINGER AT AN EXCITED NEWS CONFERENCE OUTSIDE THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, SAID 'THERE IS NO CRISIS AND I WOULD NOT LIKE THIS DELAY TO BE INTERPRETED AS A CRISIS.' KISSINGER, SPEAKING AFTER MEETING ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZAK RABIN FOR TWO AND A HALF HOURS, SAID HE HAS ASKED THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, PATRICK MOYNIHAN, TO DELIVER MONDAY THE SPEECH THE SECRETARY WAS SCHEDULED TO HAVE MADE TO A SPECIAL 10-DAY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. KISSINGER ALSO INDICATED A LENGTHENING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND HIS ORIGINAL EXPECTATIONS WHEN HE TOLD REPORTERS, 'ONE OR TWO' MORE NEGOTIATING TRIPS TO EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT MAY BE NECESSARY. A SCHEDULED NEGOTIATING JOURNEY TO ALEXANDRIA SUNDAY HAD BEEN CONSIDERED LIKELY TO BE THE LAST MEDIATION

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MEETING WITH SADAT.

"A REPORTER ASKED IF AGREEMENT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME

RATHER THAN A MATTER OF SOME NEW HITCH OR SNAG. KISSINGER NODDED AND ADDED, 'OR OF OUR NERVOUS STABILITY.'

"KISSINGER SAID THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT BY MONDAY. 'BUT WE ARE NOT WORKING AGAINST ANY FIXED DEAD-LINE,' HE SAID. KISSINGER SAID NO ONE SHOULD DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE DECISION TO SKIP THE SPEECH. 'I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO SLIDE IT BACK FROM DAY TO DAY IN A (U.N.) SESSION THAT LASTS ONLY 10 DAYS.'

"ALLON, ASKED WHAT WAS HOLDING UP AGREEMENT THAT BOTH SIDES APPEARED ALMOST TO TAKE FOR GRANTED, SAID, 'WE ARE NOW DEALING ONLY WITH ANNEXES AND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL NEGOTIATIONS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA. . .

"AT WARWICK, R.I., PRESIDENT FORD SAID NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON A PROPOSAL TO STATION AMERICAN CIVILIANS IN THE SINAI DESERT TO HELP KEEP THE PEACE BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS. EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAVE DESCRIBED APPROVAL OF A U.S. PEACEKEEPING TEAM AS A PIVOTAL POINT IN ANY SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF A NEW MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT."

(B) AP (BARRY SCHWEID) FROM JERUSALEM: "ISRAEL AND EGYPT JOINED TODAY IN APPEALING TO THE U.S. CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE AN AMERICAN SURVEILLANCE TEAM TO HELP MAINTAIN PEACE IN THE SINAI DESERT UNDER TERMS OF A NEARLY COMPLETED EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD.

"FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON, IN A STATE RADIO INTERVIEW, SAID SINCE THE IMPENDING AGREEMENT ALSO WILL SERVE AMERICAN INTEREST 'IT IS NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK FROM AMERICA TO CONTRIBUTE IN ORDER TO GIVE EXTRA CONFIDENCE TO BOTH SIDES.'

"'WE ARE NOT INVITING AMERICA TO DEFEND ISRAEL,' SAID ALLON. 'NOR TO GET INVOLVED IN ANY POSSIBLE CONFLICT,'
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NOR TO ENDANGER A SINGLE AMERICAN LIFE . . . IT'S A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD PEACE. I THINK AMERICA, WHICH PLAYED SUCH A TREMENDOUS ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT SUCH AN AGREEMENT CAN BE PROUD OF THE FACT THAT THIS IS REALLY THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT YEARS THAT TWO RIVAL SIDES ASKED FOR AMERICAN SERVICE TO BOTH OF THEM.' . . ."

(C) NO REUTERS.

TV

(A) CBS EVENING NEWS

DAN RATHER: "THE PLAN TO STATION AMERICANS IN THE SINAI DESERT TO HELP MAINTAIN PEACE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL TODAY GOT PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT FROM EGYPT. BUT IN WARWICK, R.I., PRESIDENT FORD CLAIMED THAT NO FINAL DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ON THAT IDEA. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT DID SAY 'IF THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF AMERICAN CIVILIANS WHO GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THEY WOULD GO INTO AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN A NON-COMBAT CAPACITY, ACTING AS TECHNICIANS.' SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS IN BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL TODAY, WHERE HE APPEARED TO BE PUTTING FINAL TOUCHES ON AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PLAN. . ."

BERNARD KALB (FROM TEL AVIV): "IF BASHIR SAYS IT, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT SADAT SAYS IT, TOO. THAT OBSERVATION BY A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL IN COMMENTING ON THE REMARKS OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPOKESMAN, TASHIN BASHIR, WHEN HE WAS ASKED IF EGYPT WOULD LIKE CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT OF STATIONING SOME AMERICAN SURVEILLANCE PERSONNEL IN THE SINAI.

"BASHIR: "WE WOULD LIKE, ACCORDING TO THE PROPOSAL THAT IS BEING DRAFTED NOW TO HAVE CONGRESS PASS AMERICAN TECHNICIANS TO HELP BRING A STEP OF STABILIZATION TO THIS AND TO LAUNCH A PEACE MOMENTUM IN OUR AREA."

"KALB: "WITH THESE COMMENTS, EGYPT JOINED ISRAEL IN URGING CONGRESS TO ENDORSE A U.S. PRESENCE IN THE SINAI. ON THIS POINT THE TWO ADVERSARIES HAVE FOUND UNANIMITY TO BE IN UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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THEIR OWN BEST INTERESTS -- A JOINT RECOGNITION THAT WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS IN THE NEW BUFFER ZONE THERE MAY BE NO AGREEMENT TO IMPLEMENT. IT'S NO SECRET THAT THE AMERICAN NEGOTIATING TEAM BELIEVES THERE WOULD BE A MESS IF CAPITOL HILL REJECTED AN AMERICAN PRESENCE. BUT KISSINGER AND SADAT KEPT THEIR VIEWS TO THEMSELVES AS THEY WENT THROUGH THE RITUAL OF MEETING REPORTERS. BUT THIS TIME, NO QUESTIONS PERMITTED, TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY OF A REPLY THAT MIGHT HAVE A DAMAGING IMPACT ON THESE FINAL NEGOTIATIONS. KISSINGER, HOWEVER, IS CONFIDENT OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF A U.S. PRESENCE -- MONDAY NOW OFFERED AS A POSSIBILITY FOR INITIALLING THE AGREEMENT. . ."

(B) NBC EVENING NEWS

TOM BROKAW: ". . . SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS DELAYED HIS RETURN TO THE U.S. AS ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS AS PART OF

THEIR INTERIM AGREEMENT . . . PRESIDENT FORD TODAY SAID NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO USE AMERICAN TECHNICIANS AT MONITORING POSTS SEPARATING EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES IN THE SINAI. PRAVDA, THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, CARRIED A COMMENTARY TODAY CRITICAL OF THE PROPOSAL TO USE AMERICANS. NEVERTHELESS, ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS TODAY APPEALED TO CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE PRESENCE OF AMERICANS, AND SECRETARY KISSINGER CONTINUED TO PUT TOGETHER AN AGREEMENT THAT ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL INCLUDE THE AMERICANS' ROLE. KISSINGER IS IN ISRAEL TONIGHT, AFTER SPENDING THE DAY IN EGYPT. . .

VALERIANI: "THIS WAS KISSINGER'S 5TH ROUND-TRIP SHUTTLE TO ALEXANDRIA, BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME HE AND PRESIDENT SADAT DID NOT HOLD THEIR CUSTOMARY NEWS CONFERENCE AS THEY POSED FOR PICTURES. KISSINGER WAS REPORTEDLY CONCERNED THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING THIS DELICATE CLOSING PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT SLOW DOWN EVEN MORE THE ALREADY PAINSTAKINGLY SLOW PROCESS OF DRAFTING THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT. U.S. OFFICIALS NOW CONCEDED THAT THE AGREEMENT CANNOT GO INTO EFFECT UNLESS AMERICAN TECHNICIANS ARE USED TO MAN EARLY-WARNING STATIONS IN THE SINAI TO GUARD
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AGAINST SURPRISE ATTACK BY EITHER SIDE. KISSINGER IS CONFIDENT THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL APPROVE THE STATIONING OF AMERICANS IN THE SINAI -- SO CONFIDENT THAT THERE IS NO FALL-BACK POSITION. IF HE'S RIGHT AND CONGRESS DOES APPROVE, THEN THE FINAL AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED FORMALLY IN GENEVA AROUND THE END OF NEXT MONTH, FOLLOWING A NUMBER OF PRELIMINARY STEPS.

"BACK IN JERUSALEM, KISSINGER HELD ANOTHER LATE-NIGHT SESSION WITH THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATORS, TRYING TO GET AS MUCH DONE BEFORE THE REGULAR SUNDAY CABINET MEETING HERE. HE PLANS TO GO BACK TO ALEXANDRIA TOMORROW, BUT HE DOES NOT EXPECT THE DRAFTING TO BE COMPLETED UNTIL AT LEAST MONDAY AND PERHAPS LATER. BUT HE'S NOW DECIDED TO LET AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN DELIVER HIS SPEECH TO THE U.N. ON TUESDAY, ALTHOUGH HE WANTED VERY MUCH TO DO IT HIMSELF. AMERICAN OFFICIALS INSIST THIS DOES NOT MEAN NEGOTIATIONS ARE HUNG UP BUT RATHER THAT IT'S MERELY TAKING LONGER THAN EXPECTED TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS."

(C) ABC EVENING NEWS

TED KOPPEL FROM TEL AVIV: "... THE JEWISH SABBOTH IS NOW OVER HERE, AND AFTER ANOTHER DAY OF ROUND-TRIP DIPLOMACY SECRETARY KISSINGER IS BACK IN ISRAEL WITH AN AGREEMENT TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF SUCCESS. . .

"BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY GENERAL REFERENCE TO THE NEW ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT, WE DECIDED THAT THAT SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF THIS WEEK'S PERSPECTIVE. LET ME CAUTION YOU THAT THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL AND STILL VERY GENERAL OUTLINE.

"BASICALLY THE SINAI DESERT CONTAINS FOUR ELEMENTS OF REAL VALUE TO THE ISRAELIS: A STRATEGIC OUTPOST AT SHARM EL-SHEK AT THE TIP OF THE SINAI PENINSULA -- ISRAEL IS RETAINING POSSESSION OF THAT; THE EXPANSE OF DESERT ITSELF CONSTITUTES A BUFFER AGAINST SURPRISE ATTACK -- MOST OF THAT BUFFER WILL REMAIN IN ISRAELI HANDS EVEN AFTER THIS AGREEMENT IS SIGNED; THAT LEAVES THE OIL FIELDS AT ABU RUDEIS AND THE MOUNTAIN PASSES AT MITLA AND GIDI -- THIS AGREEMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED
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MENT CALLS FOR THE RETURN OF ABU RUDEIS TO THE EGYPTIANS. THE WELLS OF ABU RUDEIS NOW FILL MORE THAN HALF OF ISRAEL'S ANNUAL OIL REQUIREMENTS. THAT OIL WILL BE REPLACED BY SHIPMENTS FROM IRAN. THE U.S. WILL UNDERWRITE THE FIRST YEAR'S COST, ESTIMATED AT DOLLAR 350 MILLION. THE U.S. WILL ALSO AGREE TO SUPPLY AN EQUIVALENT OIL SUPPLY TO ISRAEL IF FOR ANY REASON IRAN IS UNABLE TO. AMERICA WILL PAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION ON A ONE-YEAR OIL STORAGE CAPACITY IN ISRAEL TOGETHER WITH THE NECESSARY OIL TO FILL IT. THE ESTIMATED COST OF THAT VENTURE WILL BE DOLLAR 700 MILLION. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR THAT BILLION-DOLLAR-PLUS OUTLAY WILL BE SOUGHT IN SEPTEMBER. CONGRESS WILL ALSO HAVE TO APPROVE THE PRESENCE OF ABOUT 150 AMERICAN TECHNICIANS IN THE MITLA AND GIDI PASSES. THESE MEN WILL BE CIVILIAN VOLUNTEERS, EITHER RETIRED OR ON LEAVE FROM THE CIA AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY. ALL OF THEM WILL BE EXPERTS IN ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AND THEY WILL MAN THREE SURVEILLANCE POSTS. THE EGYPTIANS ARE MAKING THE FOLLOWING CONCESSIONS: THIS AGREEMENT WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL IT IS SUPERCEDED BY ANOTHER AGREEMENT; THERE IS, IN OTHER WORDS, NO AUTOMATIC EXPIRATION DATE. THE MITLA AND GIDI PASSES WILL BE OCCUPIED AND PATROLLED BY THE U.N. EGYPT HAS AGREED TO 1 YEAR MANDATE (SIC), TO BE RENEWED ANNUALLY FOR A TOTAL OF AT LEAST THREE YEARS. SOMETIME DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, ISRAELI CARGO WILL BEGIN MOVING THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL; THIS WILL HAPPEN PUBLICLY. EGYPT IS AGREEING TO REDUCE ITS ANTI-ISRAELI PROPAGANDA, TO EASE ITS BOYCOTT AGAINST FIRMS WHICH DO BUSINESS WITH ISRAEL, AND TO REDUCE ITS DIPLOMATIC WARFARE AGAINST THE ISRAELIS. MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, EGYPT AND ISRAEL WILL EXCHANGE A PLEDGE TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY. NO ONE IS CLAIMING THAT THIS AGREEMENT REPRESENTS THE MILLENNIUM. INDEED, IT CONTAINS POLITICAL RISKS FOR THE EGYPTIANS, PHYSICAL RISKS FOR THE ISRAELIS, AND A CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE FOR THE UNITED STATES. BUT THE ARCHITECT

OF THE AGREEMENT, HENRY KISSINGER, CLAIMS THAT IT IS THE
MOST LIKELY AVENUE TOWARDS PEACE. AND FOR THE TIME BEING,
AT LEAST, NO ONE HAS PROPOSED A BETTER PLAN." INGERSOLL

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